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We have had a succession of thunder-showers today and at sunset a rainbow. How moral the world is made! This bow is not utilitarian. Methinks men are great in proportion as they are moral. After the rain He sets his bow in the heavens! The world is not destitute of beauty. Ask of the skeptic who inquires, Cui bono? why the rainbow was made. While men cultivate flowers below, God cultivates flowers above; he takes care of the parterres in the heavens. Is not the rainbow a faint vision of God's face? How glorious should be the life of man passed under this arch! What more remarkable phenomenon than a rainbow, yet how little it is remarked!

THE THOREAU LYCEUM

156 Belknap Street

Concord, Massachusetts

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Saunterer welcomes from its readers, to be considered for publication in its pages, short articles or notes of historical, biographical, or bibliographical content. Limitations of space will not permit us to publish in the future articles that are essentially of an appreciative or personal nature. Publication of poetry will be limited to texts of historical significance. Brief book reviews are welcome. Because critical articles generally require more space for exposition than it is practical for the Saunterer to provide, literary studies should be brief and sharply focused on particular texts and sources. All articles submitted will be reviewed by the editor and at least one other member of the editorial board. Unpublished articles will be returned to their authors.

F. B. SANBORN, 1831-1917

by John W. Clarkson, Jr.

I.

Two salient problems face the writer of a short essay on F. B. Sanborn. The first is that of compressing the facts of the life of this remarkable man - and he was certainly remarkable - into the requisite number of pages; the second problem is how to convey to the reader a sense of the almost infinite energy that drove Sanborn to success in a variety of fields, for in his lifetime he became noted as a teacher, a political conspirator, a social reformer, a public servant, a journalist and a man of letters. More privately he was an inveterate traveler, an enthusiastic gardener and an indefatigable letter-writer. Due to limitations of space, the present writer will attempt only a "bare-bones" sketch of Sanborn's various accomplishments plus an assessment of his relationship with Thoreau.

II.

Franklin Benjamin Sanborn was born 15 December 1831 in Hampton Falls, N.H., the fourth surviving child of Aaron and Lydia (Leavitt) Sanborn. In later years two more brothers arrived to join the family group, which consisted, along with parents and children, of "Grandsir" Sanborn and two maiden aunts.

Sanborn's energy began to manifest itself early, especially in the direction of reading and classical studies. He had access to two private libraries in Hampton Falls, and before he was twelve he had read, wholly or in part, Plutarch, "Scott's Waverley Novels" Don Quixote, Pilgrim's Progress, Robinson Crusoe, and the poetry of Southey, Burns, Pope, Thomson, Campbell and the early Longfellow. He began the study of Latin very early, but at his father's insistence postponed learning Greek until he was fourteen.

The year 1850 proved to be the first major turning point in Sanborn's life, for it was at that time that he met two people who were to prove immeasurably influential upon his future career. The first of these was Ariana Smith Walker of Peterborough, N.H., a girl about his own age, of literary learnings and in poor health. Through her, Sanborn met Professor Joseph G. Hoyt of Exeter, N.H., and at her insistence he began study under the direction of Professor Hoyt, a prominent abolitionist, with the goal of eventual matriculation at Harvard College. The social thinking of Professor Hoyt was to influence Sanborn indelibly, and Miss Walker was the first great love of his life.

Sanborn entered Harvard as a sophomore in the summer of 1852, and soon, no doubt through the good offices of President Walker, a relative of Arianna, he met many of the prominent intellectuals of Boston and Cambridge, including James Russell Lowell, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Theodore Parker, and Bronson Alcott. At Harvard, Sanborn did well in his studies and apparently had an active social life, being once reprimanded for boisterous conduct in Harvard Yard on New Year's Eve. Then, one day in the early summer of 1853, he traveled to Concord

and made a ten-minute call on Emerson. This event was another that was to prove crucial in Sanborn's life.

Sanborn and Ariana were now in the midst of a traditional Victorian courtship. Letters, containing poems, raced back and forth between Cambridge and Peterborough. Arianna's parents worried; they were concerned that this emotional commitment might worsen their daughter's health which was at best that of a semi-invalid. Their worst fears were realized, for through the spring and summer of 1854 her condition deteriorated more and more rapidly until Arianna herself knew that she had not much longer to live. At her insistence, she and Sanborn were married quietly at home on August 23rd; she lived just eight days longer, dying in his arms on the evening of the 31st.

After briefly considering and rejecting the idea of study in Germany, Sanborn returned to Harvard to complete his senior year. The high quality of his work continued, and, no doubt as a result of energy released through grief, he, with others, founded the Harvard Magazine. The first volume contained no fewer than twenty-three pieces by Sanborn - seven book reviews, six essays, eight poems, an art review and an article entitled "The Editor's Table."

In November 1854, Sanborn again journeyed to Concord and made another call on Emerson, who invited the young man to come to Concord and open a school. Sanborn accepted the offer, obtained a leave of absence from college (with the condition that he complete the necessary work for his graduation) and arrived in what was eventually to be his permanent home on 24 March 1855. He soon, with Emerson's aid, arranged to rent the upper floor of Ellery Channing's home on Main Street and to take his meals with the Thoreaus, just across the way. He was introduced to Henry Thoreau by Emerson at the Town Hall on the evening of 28 March. His school, initially numbering twenty pupils, opened almost immediately. It was to operate successfully for eight years, and eventually it would provide instruction for (among many others, of course) all three Emerson children, the Hawthorne children, two of the sons of Henry James, Sr., and a daughter of John Brown.

No doubt as the result of the continuing influence of Joseph Hoyt, Sanborn had joined the Free Soil Party, and in the summer of 1856, traveled to the West as secretary of its Massachusetts State organization. Later that year he became secretary of the Massachusetts State Kansas Committee, and in January of 1857, a saturnine, bearded stranger strode into Sanborn's Boston office and introduced himself as John Brown of Kansas. Within a few short months, Sanborn was Brown's disciple and shortly thereafter he became one of a group of six men who were privy to knowledge of Brown's plans for the future. This group, styled "The Secret Six" (the present writer is morally certain that the name came from Sanborn) and dedicated to aiding Brown's operations, was composed of Sanborn, George Luther Stearns, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Theodore Parker, Samuel Gridley Howe, and Gerrit Smith. They devoted themselves to sending money and other material aid to Brown.

Without question, Sanborn had full knowledge (except for the exact date) of Brown's plans for the attack at Harper's Ferry. A reading of the correspondence between Sanborn and Brown makes this fact clear, but, since he did not know the precise date, the event caught Sanborn by surprise. After hastily burning certain papers, Sanborn departed for Canada, where he stayed for several weeks until he was persuaded by Emerson to return. Once again in Concord, Sanborn spent the winter writing to friends, teaching his pupils, and aiding John S. Keyes in drawing up "job specifications" for the newly created post of Superintendent of Schools - Bronson Alcott was appointed to the position. Sanborn's connection with Brown had become public immediately after the raid and repercussions of Brown's arrest, trial and execution echoed and re-echoed throughout the winter months. In Washington, the Mason Committee established to investigate the raid, ordered Sanborn to appear before it. Sanborn refused, feeling that such an appearance would constitute a betrayal, but offered instead to testify in Massachusetts. Then, on the evening of 3 April, 1860, agents of the United States Senate attempted literally to kidnap Sanborn from his home at 5 Sudbury Road and take him to Washington by force. Neighbors, aroused by Sanborn's sister, who was sharing her home with him at the time, came to his aid; a writ of replevin was hastily issued by Judge E. R. Hoar, and the kidnappers were "run out of town" by the mob. The next day Sanborn voluntarily appeared in Boston before Chief Justice Shaw, who decreed that the would-be kidnappers had no jurisdiction in Massachusetts. Sanborn returned to Concord, the hero of the hour. Due, no doubt, to the increasing pressures brought on by approaching war, Sanborn was not troubled again by the Mason Committee or the United States Senate.

Despite his convictions concerning abolition, Sanborn did not take an active part in the Civil War. He stayed home and began a courtship of Edith Emerson, who had been first a student and later a faculty member in his school. Apparently, Sanborn had been attracted to Edith for some time, for there are several "birthday poems" to her in manuscript extant. Eventually, he proposed to her and she refused him; thereupon, he wrote her a letter protesting strongly the treatment he had received at her hands - he felt that she had toyed with his affections. The result of this was a letter from Emerson himself that was, to quote its present owner, Mr. George Goodspeed, "almost violent" in its content. Sanborn apparently backed off and let the matter drop; the incident had no discernible effects on his relationship with his patron, and in 1862 Sanborn married his own cousin, Louisa Leavitt, of Woburn, who had also taught from time to time in his school.

Wartime economy, in the winter of 1862-63, forced the closing of his school, and Sanborn now found employment in a field in which he had been gaining some experience over the past several years. In 1856 Sanborn had been made "Boston Correspondent" of the Springfield (Mass.) Republican - a post that he was to hold until his death, a term of 61 years. In this capacity he wrote two lengthy columns per week, one on politics and one on the arts. Come what might over the years, those columns appeared regularly. Now,

in 1863, he became editor of the Boston Commonwealth, replacing Moncure Daniel Conway, who went to England to lecture for the Union cause and to act incidentally as foreign correspondent. In addition, in another move that was to have lasting effects, Sanborn was appointed by Governor Andrew, an old friend from the Free-Soil Party days, Secretary of the State Board of Charities of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This job began for Sanborn a life of travel that was to endure for the rest of his days. Also, in this year, Sanborn was elected secretary of the Social Circle, a club made up of male Concordians of which more later. Further, it would seem appropriate to observe at this point that Sanborn seems to have been elected secretary of just about every organization that he ever joined.

Sanborn's appointment as Secretary of the State Board of Charities opened still another career to him - in fact, it gave him a cause to replace that of John Brown - social reform. Over the remaining years of his life Sanborn was associated with many charitable organizations; a full discussion and examination of his career in the general area of social science, social reform and charities is not possible here, but a partial listing will give the reader some insight into the very wide scope of his rigorous activities in these general areas. During his lifetime Sanborn was instrumental in the founding of the Massachusetts Infant Asylum (1865), the American Social Science Association (1865), the Prison Conference of Cincinnati (1870), the Clarke School for the Deaf (1867), the National Conference of Charities and Correction (1874). In addition, he served from 1879 to 1888 as Inspector of State Charities for Massachusetts, and, still further, in the academic years 1884-88 Sanborn taught the first courses in the Social Sciences ever offered in the United States, at Cornell University. It might also be added here that he was Secretary of the American Social Science Association for over thirty-five years, a job which involved the arrangements and program for the yearly conference of the organization in Saratoga, N.Y., and the writing of the lengthy annual report, this latter task alone taking several months annually.

Sanborn was now a family man. His eldest son, Thomas Parker Sanborn, was born in 1865, and two more sons were born later (Victor Channing Sanborn [1867] and Francis Buchiler Sanborn [1872]). His oldest son died tragically, a suicide, in 1889. Victor settled eventually in Illinois and Francis in New Jersey, where his widow died only a few years ago.

From 1868 to 1873 the Sanborns lived away from Concord, first in the town of Ashfield and later in Springfield. During these years Sanborn was first managing editor and then (1871) "Resident Editor" of the Republican. He had given up the editorship of the Commonwealth after only a few months, but continued on its staff, with responsibility for its front page, for another five years leaving that paper finally when the family moved to Ashfield. In 1873 the Sanborns moved back to Concord, which thereafter remained their home.

Because membership in the Concord Social Circle at that time demanded residence in the town, Sanborn had dropped his membership

when he moved to the Springfield area. Now, upon his return, he was once again nominated to become a member of the group. That he was first rejected by that body - although he was later re-elected - indicates that all was not well with Sanborn's social relationships in Concord.

In 1879, Sanborn, along with William Torrey Harris, who was later to become the United States Commissioner of Education, established the famous School of Philosophy in Concord. This school offered some of the first "summer courses" in the country and, with Bronson Alcott as its leader and main attraction, continued in existence for eight full years. Over the succeeding years the school offered as lecturers such notables as Ralph Waldo Emerson, William James, H.G.O. Blake, Charles Eliot Norton, and Elizabeth Peabody. Sanborn assumed the position of secretary of the school and in that capacity was instrumental in the organization of the overall program in addition to doing most of the work of obtaining the lecturers for the various courses. When the school closed in 1888, following the death of Alcott, Sanborn found that, after settling all the school's debts, he had a net profit of 31 cents, which he pocketed as his salary for eight years' work.

In 1880 Sanborn built his fine brick house on Elm Street in Concord, the home later occupied by the H. B. Hosmer family, and named it after his first wife. A plaque on the western wall, high up towards the roof reads: "1830/A.R.I./A.N.A./1850." The feelings of Louisa Sanborn have not, so far as the present writer is aware, been recorded in regard to this "beau geste", but one Concord lady once remarked to him that Louisa was "madder than hell." A rumor persists that Ariana's love letters are concealed in the wall behind the plaque.

We have ample evidence that Sanborn's initial popularity in Concord was deteriorating rapidly, and at the same time there is little evidence indeed that Sanborn did very much to salvage it or really that he cared very much about the situation. His few close friends (most notably Benjamin Smith Lyman and William Torrey Harris) were not native Concordians; he spent much of his time away from the town. When difficulties and disputes arose, Sanborn would state his position and stick with it - he was totally unable to tolerate (or even to comprehend) a moral position that differed from his own - and he could be sharp-tongued indeed in his criticisms of others. His own sister once remarked of him that while some men were gentlemen and scholars, Frank was a scholar. Sanborn's final ploy when defeat loomed, was to lapse into silence and completely ignore his adversaries thence forwards. Perhaps the best evidence of Sanborn's increasing unpopularity was his expulsion from the Concord Social Circle following a dispute concerning an article that Sanborn had been assigned to write for publication by that body in one of its collections of Memoirs. Sanborn is the only man so served by the Social Circle; the actual expulsion occurred when he was five days at sea on his first trip to Europe, in February 1890.

On the continent, Sanborn and his wife visited Sicily, Italy, Switzerland and England and spent five weeks in Greece, where Sanborn purchased a monument of Pentellic marble for his son's grave. The Sanborns returned to Concord in June, having been away four months.

The following year Sanborn again "caused talk" in Concord when he took the aging Ellery Channing into his home to live, and, almost in exchange for his hospitality, engaged the old man in interminable conversations which seem designed to ferret out every detail of Channing's associations with Emerson and Thoreau. Sanborn carefully typed up these talks; several are to be found in the Concord Public Library today. Channing's stay with the Sanborns lasted until his death in 1900.

In 1892, Sanborn made a second trip to Europe. This time he went alone, and spent most of his time in Greece, studying, traveling about the country and visiting archeological diggings. For a short time he had hopes of succeeding Dr. Mannatt as United States Consul in Athens, but he did not finally receive the appointment. He returned via Belgrade, Budapest, Vienna, Munich, Berlin, Holland, England and Ireland, in July of 1893 after a nine-months' journey.

The turn of the century saw Sanborn enter his seventieth year, his unbelievable energy unabated. He continued writing his columns for the Republican, assisted in forming the Emerson Society, traveled much every year, lecturing in as many as ten or twelve cities in two weeks' time, assisted materially budding authors who were writing about Thoreau or John Brown, published articles of his own in the New England Magazine and the Atlantic Monthly, and began a projected three-volume autobiography, as well as a third full biography of Thoreau. Sanborn wrote at least twenty-five books, articles and lectures in the last seven years of his life alone. In addition, he managed each year to cultivate a good-sized garden - in his mid-seventies, he was still climbing his apple trees to prune them and to pick their fruit.

Two legal controversies marred Sanborn's later years. In 1913, he became involved in the Greenacre (or Green Acre) dispute, which arose concerning the rights of Miss Sara Farmer in regard to control of a foundation which she had established for the furtherance of art, music, literature, charities, etc. Certain members of the Board of Trustees of the foundation, backed by others who were regular attendants at the foundation's summer seminars in Maine (held on Miss Farmer's property, which was part of the foundation) attempted to remove control of the foundation from Miss Farmer's hands, on the grounds that she had at one time been mentally ill, even though in 1913 she appeared to be cured. Sanborn styled himself as "attorney for Miss Farmer" and sallied forth to battle. The death of Miss Farmer finally put an end to the matter.

The following year saw the beginnings of the famous "sewer controversy." Ever since the building of Ariana, Sanborn has been using sewage from his home for the enrichment of his garden; now, suddenly, he was ordered to connect his drain to the newly constructed sewer that ran up Elm Street. Feeling that he was being deprived of a personal benefit, Sanborn, acting as his own attorney and referring to himself throughout the proceedings as "my client", took the matter to court. He lost the decision, but still refused to make the ordered connection. Action was again instituted - several times, as a matter of fact. Finally the suit was "not pressed" by understanding authority and Sanborn was left in peace.

For several years, Sanborn and his wife had been visiting their son Francis in New Jersey during the winter months. On

January 18, 1917, he traveled from Westfield, where Francis lived, to New York City on business. On the return trip, he fell asleep and did not awake until the train stopped at Plainfield, beyond his destination. While walking to the platform where a train awaited that would take him back to Westfield, Sanborn was struck by a baggage cart and knocked to the ground; he returned to his son's home in an ambulance, suffering from shock and a broken hip. His next column in the Republican described his accident in detail.

Sanborn lingered for almost five weeks, writing letters, dictating to his daughter-in-law, knowing that, despite his doctor's reassurances, he was on his deathbed. He died on February 24th and his last Republican column appeared on that same day. His funeral was held on February 26th from the Unitarian Church in Concord. Flags in the Commonwealth were flown at half-mast for three days, and burial was in Sleepy Hollow, not far from "Author's Ridge". Today the Sanborn Junior High School is, as far as the present writer knows, the only monument in Concord to the man who came as a teacher but who remained to become much more.

III

Sanborn has become notorious over the years for his very obvious proprietary feelings towards both Emerson and Thoreau (not to mention John Brown). In his autobiography he tells us that after his arrival in Concord, he and Thoreau became good friends, and that he often received the accolade of an invitation to accompany Henry on walks. Sanborn states that he and Thoreau often swam together in Walden or the rivers and implies that not only were they friends, but good and close friends.

What hard evidence - if any - do we have from Thoreau's side of this relationship? Upon examination, the Journals reveal four mentions of Sanborn by name. Two of these "mentions" tell of natural facts that Sanborn related in conversation; one mentions Sanborn as gathering boughs for Christmas in the swamp near Lee's Cliff on 25 December 1856; the final "mention" - unlisted in the index of the Dover edition of the Journals, incidentally - is most interesting and perhaps revealing. It occurs in the entry for 4 April 1860 and consists of a single sentence: "Lodged at Sanborn's last night after his rescue, he being away." The night in question is, of course, the night of 3 April 1860, and the rescue (the emphasis is Thoreau's) referred to is Sanborn's deliverance from the hands of the representatives of the United States Senate.

Apparently, Sanborn and Thoreau were close enough, although fourteen years apart in age, for Thoreau to step in as "man of the house" in Sanborn's absence (Sanborn spent that night at the house of George Prescott, later captain of Concord's Militia Company in the Civil War, armed with a revolver pressed on him by Ephraim Wales Bull) even though that absence was only for one night and Sanborn was only "across town". Surely this act on Thoreau's part indicates a real friendship for Sanborn.

But - look at the sentence and its emphasis! Thoreau tells us nothing about the most exciting event in Concord since Mrs. Nathan

Brooks' maid fell down the cellar stairs and knocked herself cold, then a would-be rescuer did exactly the same thing. Thoreau gives us a full description - with a title to boot - of that incident, but to the hub-bub raised by the outright attempt to kidnap a neighbor and a friend, he devotes not a single word. And look also at that underlined word - surely this is irony - why? I leave my readers to speculate!

Materials used in the preparation of this article:

1. F. B. Sanborn, Recollections of Seventy Years (Boston: Richard G. Budger, 1909).
2. Benjamin B. Hickok, "The Political and Literary Careers of F. B. Sanborn" (Ph.D. diss., Michigan State College, 1953).

Note: Special thanks are due to Mr. Raymond Baldwin (deceased) and Mr. Lawrence Richardson, both of Concord, for aid in preparing the original material from which much of this paper is drawn.

Note: John W. Clarkson, Jr., received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Middlebury College and his Doctorate from Columbia where his dissertation was: An Annotated Checklist of the Letters of Franklin B. Sanborn with a Sanborn Bibliography. In Joel Myerson's forthcoming Studies in the American Renaissance, Dr. Clarkson will have a checklist of references to Emerson and Thoreau in Sanborn's Letters. He is a lifelong resident of Concord and is currently teaching in Rhode Island.

A CONCORD EVENING WHEN JUDGE HOAR WASHED HIS HANDS IN THE PARLOR

(A letter in the New York Sun)

Sir -- A great many years ago, when Concord was less famous and more interesting, Judge Ebenezer Roackwood Hoar and Mr. Frank B. Sanborn met at a social gathering in a neighbor's house. For a long time there had been bad feeling between the two, and all who were present watched the meeting with keenest expectation.

When he saw Mr. Sanborn, Judge Hoar walked up to him, held out his hand, and with evident earnestness suggested that the quarrel between them be dropped. Mr. Sanborn took the hand, but responded: "For tonight only."

Then the late Judge Hoar sat down in the nearest chair, called a servant, demanded a basin, water, soap and towel. When they were fetched he scoured with care and energy the hand that had lately touched Mr. Frank B. Sanborn.

We don't talk about this publicly in Concord yet, but we still tell it to each other privately at least once a year.

Ed. Note: We are indebted to Lyceum Trustee Malcolm Ferguson for the above timely reprint from the Boston Transcript of February 11, 1922.

"AS LONG AS IT IS IN CONCORD"

by Anne Root McGrath

In 1973 the Pilgrim Society in Plymouth and the Thoreau Foundation in Concord co-published a book: Between Concord and Plymouth; The Transcendentalists and The Watsons, the title coming from a letter to Benjamin Marston Watson from Thoreau who said, in part: "The world still holds together between Concord and Plymouth, it seems." The date of this communication was September 14, 1854 and 15 days later a young man from Plymouth, sojourning in Concord, wrote to his parents of a day spent with Henry Thoreau, first at the Main Street house and then at Fairhaven and Conantum, thus forging another link between the seaside-town and the river-village. We are indebted to Lawrence Geller, author of the above-mentioned book and Director and Fellow of the Pilgrim Society for bringing the letter to our attention. Our thanks also go to the Plymouth Antiquarian Society and Miss Margaret G. Clark for their kind permission to edit and publish it. Since the original is one long paragraph we have taken the liberty of dividing it into appropriate sections.

written Friday evening
Concord, September 29th, 1854
Middlesex House

Dear Father and Mother

Since Esta will not take the trouble to write me, as she promised, I address myself to you. I received your letter this evening as I returned from an afternoon's tramp with Mr. Thoreau. Mrs. T. kindly invited me to tea & said she should expect me, but I thought it better to decline & since, I have been glad I have done so, as I got your letter, & can sit & write here so comfortably - It only wants one or two people here to make it quite pleasant.

I dined at Mr. Thoreau's today. I went in and knocked gently, but as no one heard, for the family was in the next room, I walked in & made myself at home reading Walden. There was an English Gentleman, with an unpronounceable name which I wish I had written just for curiosity, there.¹ He came there for Mr. Thoreau to teach him botany which Mr. T. says he never professed to know, though he acknowledged to me today that he never met with a new plant now & had given up the study.² The English gentleman wears a long beard & mustache & is a graduate of Oxford.

Mr. T's mother is a rather tall & very pleasant lady.³ She made herself very agreeable and said she knew my father & mother which I found were Uncle Brown & Aunt Hannah. Mr. T's father and sister are very pleasant. They had a mutton for dinner which would suit you. It was much better than we have at home. By going in so I had an opportunity of hearing Mr. Thoreau play upon his flute in the next room, which was very fine. He accompanied his sister upon the piano, Mrs. T. says.

They must be pretty well off by the look of things. Mr. T. showed me another large white two story house a short distance over the fields which he said his father owns. He said he dug the cellar while he lived at Walden & stoned it. They lived there when it was built but his mother & sister preferred living down nearer & so they moved down. He said he didn't care where they lived, so long as it was in Concord, if he could only get off the back way into the woods, which you can do from almost every house by going across the fields or meadows.

After dinner we set off for a walk. We went up on the hill from which you can see distant mountains & a wide prospect of river, dale & hamlet around. We soon came to the "Cliff," - a perpendicular ledge of rocks some hundred (200 feet) above the wood & river below - all wild & rugged far from any house, a stupendous work of nature & worth as much to see as Niagara Falls or the Giants' Causeway!!! I should like to see you look down there - you would have to hold on though it makes one so dizzy. We saw and passed through "Pleasant Meadow" & the "Baker Farm," saw the house where John Field lived & "Fairhaven Bay" & "Conantum," the desolate pasture & river reach & wild apple orchard & deserted house. The river pleases me most for it is a perfectly natural stream lying in the meadow at rest. Sell out and buy a farm in Concord. You can have a little skiff on the river, and paddle freely right into another state if you choose. Mr. T. has paddled fifty miles in a day.

It is a charming prospect to stand above Mr. Lee's farm and look down. The house stands back from the river & facing it, with a smooth lawn running down to it, & a boat. The beauty of it is that the river does not flow but lies still & calm so that I could not tell which way it runs. Mr. T. says some Irish people live by it some years & don't know. You do not see it in the village at all. There are no masts to offend the eye.

We saw a beautiful trout brook on the Baker Farm. Nobody lives there & no doubt it could be bought! I went down & saw Mr. Alcott's house, now Mr. Hawthorne's this forenoon. I am going tomorrow to see Mr. Minott opposite Mr. Emerson's, an old man who doesn't go away from his farm & has never seen the depot. I told Mr. T. of a parallel case in Uncle Johnny Bradford.

Mr. Channing's home is directly opposite Mr. T.'s & the lot runs down to the river & is level. I went down & saw his boat. There are some very ancient houses one with the upper story larger than the lower. The most of the houses are large with an ample porch & painted white with green blinds. The church spires show beautifully from a distance. They are white and stand among the trees with the green meadows around. I could write a few more sheets but I think I had better retire.

Your affectionate Son
(James Spooner)

FOOTNOTES

¹The "English Gentleman" was Thomas Cholmondeley who had come to Concord to see Ralph Waldo Emerson at whose house he met Thoreau. It was arranged that the visitor should board at Mrs. Thoreau's for a few weeks and he and Henry became good friends.

²On October 5, 1854, Thoreau wrote to H.G.O. Blake of Worcester: "...There is a Mr. Thomas Cholmondeley (pronounced Chumly) a young English author, staying at our house at present - who asks me to teach him botany - i.e. anything which I know - and also to make an excursion to some mountain with him. He is a well-behaved person, and possibly I may propose his taking that run to Wachusett with us - if it will be agreeable to you. Nay If I do not hear any objection from you I will consider myself at liberty to invite him." The trip to the mountain took place in October and the friendship between Thoreau and Cholmondeley lasted the rest of Thoreau's life. Cholmondeley tried unsuccessfully to persuade Thoreau to visit England and, in 1858, to go to the valley of the Amazon but Thoreau declined both invitations. He did however, accept with pleasure the gift of 44 volumes of Oriental writings which arrived from England in the fall of 1855. In announcing his bonanza to Daniel Ricketson Thoreau said: "I send you information of this as I might of the birth of a child."

³The "large white two story house" which Thoreau showed to Spooner was the so-called "Texas House" which Henry and his father had built in 1844 from a plan drawn up by Mrs. Thoreau after consultation with a carpenter. It stood on the lot next to the present Thoreau Lyceum property. The partly filled-in cellar hole may still be distinguished there and the syringa bush planted by Thoreau bloomed bravely in the recent May snowstorm.

⁴The walk to Fairhaven Hill and the Cliffs was one of Thoreau's favorites but, to my knowledge, he never compared the rocks with Niagara Falls or the Giant's Causeway! The Journal entry for Sept. 29, 1854 begins: "To Lee's Bridge via Mt. Misery and return by Conantum..."

⁵Perhaps, as James Spooner looked at the river, Thoreau told him about the boat trip he and his brother John had taken on the Concord and Merrimack in 1839 when they went "freely into another state."

⁶Thoreau and his guest were looking at the Sudbury River but Spooner's remarks remind us of what Hawthorne said about the Concord in Mosses From An Old Manse: "It may well be called the Concord, - the river of peace and quietness; for it is certainly the most unexcitable and sluggish stream that ever loitered imperceptibly towards its eternity - the sea. Positively I had lived three weeks beside it before it grew quite clear to my perception which way the current flowed."

Ed. Note: Anne R. McGrath is the curator of the Thoreau Lyceum and a lifelong resident of Concord.

THE MAKING OF ALEK THERIEN: JOURNAL ANTECEDENTS OF
THERIEN AS LITERARY CHARACTER

by Leonard N. Neufeldt

The first manuscript version of Walden includes a discussion of a French-Canadian woodchopper who lent several remarkable characteristics to one of Thoreau's most memorable literary characters. This sketch fills almost nine manuscript pages, the first six paragraphs describing the "Paphlagonian man" who fells trees for a living, has heard of Homer, eats woodchucks, gathers bark on Sunday for a sick acquaintance, loves physical work as much as meat and mirth, and usually manifests an exuberance of animal spirits. These paragraphs are based largely on the Walden Journal published almost in its entirety in the first volume of the 1906 Journal as "Chapter VII, 1845-1846." The rest of the description in the initial draft of Walden (three paragraphs) shifts to the opinions and mental life of the woodchopper, identified as Alek Therien, but unnamed in the published text of Walden. Although the entire portrait is based on the historical Therien, whom Thoreau befriended at Walden Pond, the last three paragraphs probably draw on a section in an unpublished Walden Journal housed in the Berg Collection of the New York Public Library.¹ The subject of this text is not Therien, but one of Thoreau's associates on his first excursion into the Maine woods. In short, the portrait in the first draft of Walden appears to be a composite of two distinct characters and material in two independent Journal notebooks. Here, as elsewhere in Walden, Thoreau's account is historically grounded yet mythologized in order to serve the fable he is writing.

Thoreau had only recently moved into his hut at Walden Pond when he first met Therien. On Sunday, July 13, 1845 he described in his Journal Therien's initial visit to the hut. It probably was a lengthy visit; certainly it was unusual: Thoreau translated for his visitor from Homer's Iliad and the visitor spoke in detail of himself and his background, even noting that he had "made his last supper on a woodchuck which his dog had caught--".² The account of this visit, which fills almost two Journal pages, is virtually identical to the first two paragraphs on Therien in the earliest manuscript version of Walden.³ Three days later, after Therien had stopped by that morning to visit at the bean field and Thoreau had left off hoeing to write in his Journal, he reported, among other items, Therien's advice, based largely on hearsay and superstition, not to hoe beans until the dew had vanished.

Although Therien visited Thoreau frequently at Walden, no other explicit mention of him can be found in the surviving pages of the Walden Journals, nor is there evidence to suspect notations on Therien in missing pages.⁴ He is referred to in passing, however, in an early entry of the Berg notebook, a passage Thoreau eventually revised for use in "Thomas Carlyle and His Works." Originally part of this entry read: "So few writers are respectable--ever get out of their apprenticeship-- As the man said he did not know which thought to put down first--that his hand was not a very good one--& then there was spelling to be attended to--".⁵ Later Thoreau interlined after "said", "that as for composition it killed him," then changed "man" to "laborer" (sic). Although rejected almost entirely for "Carlyle,"

this material was revised and incorporated into the concluding paragraphs of the Therien section in the first draft of Walden, in which the focus has shifted from the animal man to his opinions and queries concerning reform, good business, proper trade, philosophy, writers and preachers, and his guileless and naïve wonder for the world of ideas: philosophy in the raw, so to speak, with brawny biceps, chafed hands, a lumberman's shirt and simple eyes.

On the basis of context (theme and tone) as well as chronology, there is reason to believe this part of the discussion of Therien was informed by a passage late in the Berg notebook, near the end of Thoreau's first draft of "Ktaadn." In this passage, which Thoreau omitted in his final copy of "Ktaadn," young Tom Fowler, a backwoodsman and one of five men to accompany Thoreau on his excursion to Mount Katahdin, assumes a prominence and significance he is not granted elsewhere in the account of the trip.

Having described how the party awoke early that morning to navigate the remaining lakes and streams before storms could threaten to delay them and their food supply would run out, Thoreau suddenly shifts the focus to the bow of the boat pointing to the far shore of Ambejijis Lake:

Tom and I lolling in the bow discoursed philosophy across this fair lake--while the rest set us ahead like galley slaves. Tom was a young and ingenuous waterman with that indolent but mild and mellow expression of those who had had much intercourse with rude nature-- The noble frankness [sic] of a forest child-- The lake How deep it is!-- 4 hundred feet perhaps and more-- See that ring bolt--where that large rock lies on the sand-- That's a stiff boom-head down there.

When narrator Thoreau observes that the stone is not natural to this region and possibly has come from "from Ktadn," Fowler's intellect is stirred, anticipating Therien's testimonial, "You make me think of things I never thought of before" (Shanley, 173). Notwithstanding the problem of identifying the speaker in the ensuing dialogue as Fowler or Thoreau, it is clear that Fowler expresses, among other things, the wish to see the bottom of this deepest of all lakes in the region, speculates on who made the lake and what its true name is, asks Thoreau "what do we know of Umbedegis--" and "Do you believe there's any hereafter?" (sic). Only a few of these topics find their way into the discussion of Therien, although virtually all are incorporated into various sections of Walden. Thoreau encourages Fowler's questions, then uses each question as an opportunity to deliver some of his unorthodox views in typically succinct, tongue-in-cheek fashion. The question on the hereafter occasions the longest rejoinder: "Why where's Pamadumcook isn't that hereafter? . . . Why after Pamadumcook--we expect--the North Twin--and after the North Twin Mattawamkaag and after stranger places which we never saw--the world never failed of morrows and of news-- So during this life we expect another." The discussion concludes, appropriately, with Fowler's observation, "You have curious notions."

Therien, Thoreau notes, "never tried to write thoughts." Nor, to the best of our knowledge, did Tom Fowler. Thoreau, however, did, recording not only Therien's and Fowler's similar thoughts, but his own thoughts about them. By the time he composed his journal narrative of the excursion with Fowler (September, 1846), he had begun to draft a lecture on his life at the Pond⁶ and, in all likelihood, Walden itself. Almost all of the Thoreau-Fowler exchange figures one way or another in Walden; most suggestive is the portrait of Fowler, who combines physical prowess, animal spirit, and a slumbering intellect strangely stirred by an educated questioner from Concord who harbored curious notions and knew how to write them down.

NOTES

¹While drafting A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers, Walden (first version) and several lectures at Walden Pond, Thoreau also wrote four separate, and to some extent concurrent, Journals. Besides the two Journals already referred to there is a substantial notebook Thomas Blanding has identified as Thoreau's "Long Book," approximately one-fifth of which was printed in the 1906 Journal, Volume 1, as "Chapter IX, 1837-1847," and a notebook most of which the 1906 Journal includes in the same volume as "Chapter VIII, 1845-1847." These two Journals, as well as the notebook containing the discussion of Therien, are at the Pierpont Morgan Library. This writer is currently co-editing the four Walden Journals for the new edition of Thoreau's writings being published by Princeton University Press.

²Pierpont Morgan Library, MA 1302:8; quoted with permission.

³See J. Lyndon Shanley, The Making of Walden, Chicago, 1957, pp. 169-170.

⁴Surprisingly, a lengthy and nearly continuous section in a Walden Journal, consisting of sketches of numerous characters eventually to appear in Walden (see 1906 Journal 1, 414-433), contains nothing on Therien.

⁵Journal, Walden April 17 1846, Berg Collection, New York Public Library; quoted with permission.

⁶Delivered in February, 1847, in the Concord Lyceum and listed in the Lyceum minutes as "History of Himself," possibly an indication of the Recording Secretary's pique or attempt at humor.

Note: Leonard N. Neufeldt is Associate Professor and Chairman, Faculty of Literature, University of Texas--Permian Basin. On leave for the past year, he has been editing Thoreau's Journal at the Textual Center, Princeton University. His published criticism includes numerous articles on Emerson and Thoreau.

by Thomas Blanding

In the winter, 1976, Concord Saunterer ("A Last Word from Thoreau," pp. 16-17), I described two copies of Thoreau's A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers once owned by his Rochester, Michigan, correspondent, Calvin H. Greene. One of these, the 1868 "New and Revised" edition, is in the Abernethy Library of American Literature at Middlebury College. Greene pasted into the Abernethy copy a clipping from a local newspaper (here published with the kind permission of the Middlebury College Library) which provides a glimpse of this man whom we have to thank for sending Thoreau money in 1856 to have his daguerreotypes taken at Maxham's parlors in Worcester. Greene never met Thoreau, but he made two pilgrimages to Concord in the years after his death.

Incidentally, Greene is referred to in Thoreau biographies by his first name, Calvin, but this clipping seems to suggest that he preferred his middle name, Harlow; so add him to the list of Thoreau's friends who went the middle way--Ellery and Bronson and Waldo . . . and David Henry . . .

A mile to the westward of the village [of Rochester, Michigan] Harlow Green has a saw-mill and cider-mill combined, and with ample power from the Clinton river, he is doing a fine business. Mr. Green is a man of divided affections. His model mill has never quite blunted his poetic tastes. In a pleasant little home, across the river, the literary and social atmosphere is charming enough to attract the gods. Here dwells a man of simple tastes and habits, daily joining the rough life of the lumbermen to tenderest communion with Emerson, Parker, Curtis and Hawthorne. He is a passionate lover of Henry Thoreau and Margaret Fuller. At the homes of these living authors he is a welcome visitor; at the graves of the dead ones a reverent pilgrim. An ardent and sympathetic student of nature, Harlow Green lives here in modest estate on the banks of the beautiful river, quite near to his God, and near enough to his fellow-men to make up our ideal of the Christian man.

To this Greene has added the ascription and note: "L. D. Burch -- of Ann Arbor M[ichigan]. / Village pa[per?]. -- '73 ' ' (?) / Too, too!!"

Ed. Note: Thomas Blanding is a member of the Editorial Board and Resident Editor at the Princeton Textual Center for THE WRITINGS OF HENRY D. THOREAU. He is editor of EXCURSIONS, the JOURNAL, and two volumes of NATURE ESSAYS, comprising Thoreau's unfinished works and including his book of "Wild Fruits" and "The Dispersion of Seeds." He is also contributing editor to Correspondence and Poems.

ELLERY CHANNING TO SOPHIA THOREAU: AN UNPUBLISHED LETTER

by Francis B. Dedmond

In October of 1865, Ellery Channing sold his Main Street house in Concord and carefully transferred the dresses he had preserved of his dead wife Ellen to his new house at 6 Middle Street. The Middle Street dwelling formerly housed the Concord Academy. From 1838 to 1841, the Thoreau brothers instructed their pupils in the very rooms where the lonely Ellery now collected and stored a weird assortment of odds and ends. There, early in 1867, Ellery began anew the keeping of a journal, and for four months he was faithful in making his daily entries. The constant reminder of his lost friend may have provided the incentive Ellery needed to keep him at his task, short-lived though it proved to be; for, as Frederick McGill in Channing of Concord has observed, "the ghost of Henry Thoreau saunters through these daily entries" (p. 164).

It was not only in his journal that Ellery bemoaned the loss of Henry Thoreau and paid his respects to his memory; but even after the journal had been abandoned, Ellery apparently occasionally felt the need to express to someone his abiding sense of loss. Thus early in January, 1868, he wrote Sophia Thoreau the following letter, published here for the first time with the permission of the Concord Free Public Library:

Jan. 4, '68.

My dear Miss Thoreau,

I am much indebted for the book and I trust I shall get courage to visit you and yr mother again ere long.

The loss of Henry has been so great a misfortune to me and I am so constantly impressed with it, that I sometimes feel as if I hardly cared to visit the places most familiar to him, in a domestic way.

His departure has been so great a change that I have been in a kind of dream, since he left us. I have admired yr fidelity in the publishing of his books and I can sympathize with it, as he could, but it is no matter to him now. His works are not meant for the vulgar, but they will have a place in cultivated literature.

I still take many of our old walks (some I keep for times of greater affliction) & go the same rounds precisely we used, very few days pass but I am at the place where his house stood, or at our old dells, rocks, & spots along the river and the ponds. He still seems to accompany me in these familiar enterprises and while I am fast growing old, he remains as young as he was. Many are the things which I think would amuse him and I often hear his voice, deploring the loss of woods & changes in landscape.

His character was of that kind which must always endure to those who knew him best, neither is it necessary nor desirable for them to form new companions, while his memory

& presence must always remain altogether perfect and lasting. For my part, as he was the best, so he is the best of friends,--let us never be at any time seperated [sic].

Very truly yours

W. E. Channing

OF BOOKS AND BOOKMEN

Of interest to Concord Saunterer readers are the new books about Thoreau which are either already in print or expected to appear in the near future. In the first category is Young Man Thoreau by Richard Lebeaux. Based on Eriksonian psychology this study of Thoreau's dilemmas of identity and interpersonal relationships is bound to provoke heated discussions in Concord and elsewhere. It is available now in our bookshop at \$12.50.

Due in July (we hope by the 8th or 9th) is a long-overdue study of Thoreau's influence on contemporary politics. Its title is apt and succinct: Several More Lives to Live: Thoreau's Political Reputation in America. Michael Meyer, the author, teaches at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and was a member of Dr. Walter Harding's NEH seminar in Concord last summer. He will speak at the Lyceum on July 8 at 8:30 p.m. about the possibilities and significances of Thoreau's social thought for "each generation of critics from 1920 to the early 1970s."

Thoreau and the American Indian by Robert Sayre will also appear (we hope) in July. From the interest expressed by Lyceum visitors about Henry Thoreau's attitude toward the Indian we predict that this book will be welcomed by many serious students. We have ordered advance copies of it and Michael Meyer's book, both @ \$14.50 and will accept orders by mail for delivery on publication.

Most prolific of this season's authors seems to be George Hendrick, Chairman of the Department of English at the University of Illinois at Urbana. Author, co-author or cooperating editor of six volumes, three of which are slated to be published this summer, Hendrick's book on Henry Salt: Humanitarian and Man of Letters (\$10) should interest all Thoreauvians who are familiar with Salt's biography of Thoreau. American Literary Manuscripts (with J. A. Robbins as General Editor) lists holdings in libraries for Alcott, Hawthorne, Emerson and Thoreau and is being brought out by the University of Georgia Press at \$16.

However, the volume we most want to see and with which we have been most closely associated is the one to be published in the fall of this year. Recollections of Concord and The Thoreaus: Letters of Horace Hosmer to Dr. S. A. Jones will be an eye-opener as well as a delight to many readers who think that the last word has been said on Thoreau and Concord. We expect to have this title on our fall booklist in time for Christmas giving.

("I was determined to know beans." -- Thoreau)

This month some string beans, bringing together a few documents about the earliest effort to publish Thoreau's Journal, that remarkable excursion through twenty-four years, forty-seven notebooks, and more than two million words.

From the first, Thoreau's friends--Emerson, Alcott, Channing--recognized that the Journal was his richest harvest, and for years after his death in 1862 they tried to wrest (in a neighborly way) the treasured trunk from his sister Sophia. But she guarded the papers religiously and withheld them from publication. Sophia sometimes despaired justice ever being done her brother's memory. If his reputation were to survive the censures of his critics, success would depend more on his own words, especially on the spontaneous pages of the Journal, than on all the calculated defenses of his apologists, who, it seemed to Sophia, were not comprehensive enough to interpret his genius. Sophia's withholding of the Journal was an act of faith. Her brother would speak for himself, and she had only to be sure that she chose the right man to see that his words rang as solidly in print as they did when he wrote them. The man to edit the Journal would come, she said again and again. Adamantine in patience and faith, she would not be hurried. The man would come.

One hopeful man approached Miss Thoreau's Concord doorstep on July 7, 1865. He was James T. Fields, partner in the prestigious Boston publishing house, Ticknor & Fields, which had brought out Walden in 1854, and since Thoreau's death had added three posthumous volumes, Excursions, The Maine Woods, and Cape Cod, edited by Ellery Channing and Sophia, and was about to publish Emerson's edition of Letters to Various Persons. Fields came up to Concord with his wife Annie in July and spoke with Sophia of finding an editor "to condense" the Journal notebooks for publication. He proposed Frank Sanborn as the man, to which Sophia rejoined, "He knows a great deal, but I never associate him with my brother." Fields failed to get past Thoreau's sentinel and returned to Boston empty handed. He let the question of the Journal lapse momentarily and asked Sophia to prepare the political papers for the press instead, since Emerson had balked at including any of them in Letters to Various Persons.

This, however, was only a strategic retreat. The next month Sanborn reviewed the Letters in the Commonwealth newspaper (August 12, 1865) and pressed the campaign there: "There are his journals, too,--a rich mass of observations on every aspect of nature and of the soul which he saw,--from which it would be possible to draw more than one volume of selections, if the whole cannot be printed." One senses Field's blessing behind this pointed overture. For a time Fields even considered setting about the editing himself. But then he beheld "the man," an able writer and staunch Thoreau apologist, already quartered in the Ticknor & Fields camp.

Thomas Wentworth Higginson is perhaps best remembered today as Emily Dickinson "preceptor" and posthumous editor, but he was also a friend and early defender of Thoreau. He had reviewed A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers in 1849 as "a rare and delicious thing,"

at a time when the book had few readers and fewer plaudits. He liked the man no less when they met the next summer: Thoreau, Higginson wrote his mother, "surveys land both mathematically and meditatively; lays out house lots in Haverhill & in the moon." Their friendship grew more steadfast with the years, especially in 1859 on the occasion of their impassioned defenses of John Brown, whose raid on Harper's Ferry Higginson had clandestinely backed as a member of the "Secret Six." Since then Higginson had become a popular writer for Ticknor & Fields' Atlantic Monthly and, in reviews of Thoreau's posthumous books, extolled Thoreau's independent spirit, his seasoned communion with nature, and his superior artistry.

Higginson had read some of Thoreau's manuscript Journal and campaigned for its publication. The winter of 1864-65 he perused a five hundred page notebook (August 19, 1853 to February 12, 1854) that Sophia had lent to Thoreau's ardent disciple, H.G.O. Blake. Blake carried the volume back to Worcester and Higginson read it there. "We have a volume of Thoreau's Diary," Higginson wrote earnestly to an unidentified correspondent (probably his mother), "full of beauty & interest. There is a quaint & touching description of his getting back the unsold copies of his first book & piling them up in his room--706 copies out of an edition of 1000--of the rest 75 were given & 219 sold. He says I h[a]v[e] now a library of nearly 900 vols.--over 700 of which I wrote myself. But he takes it nobly & beautifully & finds a bright side to it." (Quoted with the permission of Harvard College Library, *48M-271/bMS Am 1162.10, #909).

By the fall of 1865, Higginson was free of his own literary labors, having just translated the writings of the stoic philosopher Epictetus for Ticknor & Fields. On the day it was published, September 20, Higginson attended Carrie Channing's (Ellery's daughter's) wedding in Boston, and afterwards met with Fields. Higginson's diary entry for that day is brief but suggestive: "Saw Fields & planned Thoreau's Journal" (Quoted with the permission of Harvard College Library, bMS Am 1162). The next day, from his home in Newport, Rhode Island, Higginson sent the following letter to Sophia Thoreau (Quoted with the permission of the Concord Public Library):

Newport, R.I.
Sept. 21, 1865.

Dear Miss Thoreau

I write partly by desire of Mr. Fields and partly at my own impulse. Last winter I read one of your brother's journals (at Worcester) & felt the greatest desire to see them edited & published--or at least a selection from them. Mr. Fields is now willing to publish such a selection, to the extent of two volumes like *Walden*, & he wishes me to prepare them for the press. I write to ask the opinion, on this subject, of yourself & mother.

I cannot tell how far the volume I saw was a specimen of the whole, in size or structure--it was that from Aug. 1853 to Feb 1854--but it certainly contained things equal to the very finest yet printed by him or for him,

but as regards thought & observation. Mingled with this was a good deal already printed, but apparently always erased in pencil. There were also many passages not available for print, as incomplete, too personal, or mere compilation. If the volumes are generally like that, the editorial work would be a pleasure, and I would readily undertake it, if you are satisfied to let me. Of course everything would be subordinated to your wishes.

From some similarity of tastes & pursuits, and an intense appreciation of your brother's genius & qualities, I trust that I am not unfitted for such an enterprise. I believe that I have also some literary discrimination, & a good deal of method & industry. Of course, this work must be done here, but I shall wish to begin it by a pretty full examination of the books with you,--that is, if, as I suppose, they are not all as clear or intelligible as the one I examined. My object would be to get a general notion of the relation of the parts, & how much ground they covered. I would spend a day in Concord for this purpose.

I am good at decyphering manuscript, & your brother's is not hard to me: so I think there would be no trouble in that way. Such parts as were to be used, would be copied for the press, here.

I ought to warn you that such an enterprise cannot be pecuniarily profitable, or not for years; indeed I was rather surprised at Mr. Fields' undertaking it at all.

Please let me know, as early as possible, your views on the matter & believe me

Yours with much regard

Thomas Wentworth Higginson

Sophia weighed the proposal for several days before mailing her reply (Quoted with the permission of the Pierpont Morgan Library, R-V Autographs Misc. American, MA 1443):

Concord Sept. 26th

Mr. Higginson.

Dear Sir,

In response to your note of Sept. 21st allow me to express my sincere appreciation of the compliment implied in your willingness to edit my brother's journals. I think of no person more worthy to accomplish the task. I presume that the volume which you saw in Worcester is a fair specimen of the remaining thirty which Henry left in my charge.

These papers are very sacred to me & I feel inclined to defer giving them to the public for the present.

I differ from yourself in regard to the pecuniary profit which I believe would result from the enterprise you suggest.

The journals contain nothing that could offend any class of readers--'Nature' being the absorbing topic.

And judging from the sale of my brother's late works, I feel confident that a selection might be made, which would prove successful in every respect.

With the highest esteem--I am your truly,

S. E. Thoreau

This is where the campaign ended. Higginson and Fields would try again, four or five years later, as others would try before them and after them, but Sophia remained adamant. The man would come.

Walter Magnus Teller, ON THE RIVER, Rutgers University Press, 1976, 331 p., cloth \$12.50, paper, \$5.95

Small-boating on rivers for pleasure in the eastern United States is the subject of this excellent anthology. First in its baker's dozen of authors is Thoreau, with Concord River selections from the Journal, showing his range and depth of interest and that he went boating in all months except three in winter, and reveal again how much of a part this waterway played in his vision of Concord.

One of the longest selections is that of Nathaniel Holmes Bishop, admirably reduced from his books Voyage of the Paper Canoe, and Four Months in a Sneak Box. Bishop went in the 1870's from Quebec down rivers and coastal waterways to Florida and New Orleans, and then started at Pittsburgh as cold weather was setting in down the Mississippi. Here the editor has made excerpts from two books that were only intermittently interesting, with commendable results.

Another longer selection is from John Boyle O'Reilly, whose Athletics and Manly Sports takes us on four canoe trips in the 1880's. O'Reilly shared Theodore Roosevelt's outdoor interests and attitude, as his book's title suggests. "Born in Ireland, imprisoned for Fenian activities and transported to Australia, he escaped to the United States, became an American citizen and a contributor to the literature of his adopted country," Mr. Teller notes. Boyle O'Reilly was editor of the Pilot, published in Boston, and then the world's most influential Catholic paper. His honesty, sympathy and understanding of social and political issues of the time are outstanding.

Other short selections dealing with Maine waterways may be of more Thoreauvian interest. While these excursions recorded all took place over fifty years ago, they furnish an admirable background for a pastime that has had less written about it than mountain-climbing.

NMF

THE THOREAU SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Thoreau Society will be held in Concord at the First Parish Church on Saturday, July 9. Following a coffee hour at 9, the business meeting will be called to order at 10:15. The speaker of the day will be Robert Francis, American poet from Amherst, who will speak on "Thoreau on the Benevolence of Nature." Following the presidential address on "The Puzzle of Thoreau's Calendar of the Seasons" to be given by W. Stephen Thomas, a luncheon will be served for those who have made reservations. These may be ordered ahead from: Mrs. Charles D. MacPherson, 46 Nagog Hill Road, Acton, Mass. 01720; price: \$3.50.

The afternoon program will consist of walks around Thoreau Country and visits to places of special interest. The Lyceum will hold its annual sherry party at 5 to which we hope to lure some of the authors listed above. Tickets for the 6 o'clock box supper must be ordered at \$2.25 each from The Thoreau Lyceum, 156 Belknap Street, Concord, MASS. 01742, checks payable to the Thoreau Foundation, Inc.

For those who arrive in Concord early, on Friday evening, July 8 at 8:30, the Lyceum will present a lecture by Michael Meyer, author of the forthcoming (July) book: Several More Lives to Live: Thoreau's Political Reputation in America.

Anyone who would be interested in joining a discussion group on Thoreau on Friday morning, July 8 and/or Sunday, July 10 in Concord, should get in touch with Linda Beaulieu, Box 65, Holcomb, New York 14469. She would also welcome topics for discussion.

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

The special exhibits at the Lyceum will include paintings by Gordon Morrison, a Massachusetts artist who has done four wildlife paintings for the Massachusetts Audubon Society. His subjects range from birds and animals to New England scenes.

All visitors to Concord this summer should take advantage of the opportunity to see Christopher Childs in Clear Sky, Pure Light; an Evening with Henry David Thoreau. This performance is head and shoulders above any other one-man show based on the writings of the Concord Poet-Naturalist. It will be offered at 51 Walden Street at 8:30 on Friday and Saturday evenings from June 17 through September 3. Through the courtesy of Mr. Childs, members of the Thoreau Society and/or the Thoreau Lyceum will be admitted for two dollars rather than three.